Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 123543
ORIGIN NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 R

66011
DRAFTED BY: EUR/CE:ENLAUDERDALE
APPROVED BY: EUR/CE:WWOESSNER
EUR/WE:JDOBBINS
S/S-O:SVALERGA
----------107925 152248Z /65
O 152206Z MAY 78 ZFF5
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE 3086

S E C R E T STATE 123543

NODIS

FOLLOWING REPEAT PARIS 15409 SENT ACTION SECSTATE 13 MAY 78

QUOTE S E C R E T PARIS 15409

NODIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS 1
TAGS: PEPR, FR, GW
SUBJECT: FRENCH DISTRESS OVER OTRAG

REF: (A) STATE 114573 (NODIS), (B) STATE 121044
(EXDIS), (C) PARIS 9555 (NODIS)

1. ELYSEE INTERNATIONAL STAFF SOURCE, QUERIED
ALONG LINES REF A MAY 12, TELLS US THAT ELYSEE HAS
NOT RECENTLY REOPENED OTRAG ISSUE WITH FRG, ALTHOUGH
THERE WAS "POSSIBILITY" THAT GISCARD DISCUSSED
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QUESTION WITH SCHMIDT IN TETE-A-TETE.

2. SOURCE CONTINUED, ON STRICT BACKGROUND BASIS,
THAT IN COURSE LAST THREE MONTHS OTRAG HAD ATTEMPTED
TO FORM SUBSIDIARY IN FRANCE, BUT HAD BEEN TURNED DOWN.
IN COURSE A CONVERSATION THAT CONNECTION, HEAD OF
OTRAG HAD INSISTED ON THE COMMERCIAL NATURE OF HIS

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VENTURE - BUT, TO FRENCH AMAZEMENT, HAD VOLUNTEERED THAT IF GERMAN GOVERNMENT WERE TO APPROACH OTRAG TO USE ITS AFRICAN FACILITIES FOR OFFICIAL TESTS, FOR EXAMPLE OF GERMAN CRUISE MISSILES, OTRAG MIGHT HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO AGREE. SOURCE SAID GOF RECOGNIZES THE ESSENTIALLY COMMERCIAL AND NOT YET TOO SOPHISTICATED NATURE OF OTRAG'S CURRENT VENTURES. WHAT CONTINUES TO WORRY THE ELYSEE AT HIGHEST LEVELS, HOWEVER, IS PRECISELY OTRAG'S CAPACITY, WHICH THE ABOVE-CITED CONVERSATION ILLUSTRATES, OF TRANSFORMING ITSELF QUICKLY INTO A COVER FOR POSSIBLE OFFICIAL PROJECTS.

3. COMMENT: GIVEN ALREADY HIGH LEVEL OF FRENCH SUSPICIONS, POSSIBILITY OF SECRET OTRAG LAUNCHES IN ZAIRE DISCUSSED REF B AND PREVIOUS OBVIOUSLY INTRODUCES NEW ELEMENTS WHICH CAN FURTHER AGGRAVATE THESE CONCERNS.
HARTMAN

UNQUOTE VANCE

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NNN

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